An unusually mild August

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Frequent northeast winds produced an unusually mild August across the country.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rainfall</td>
<td>A large contrast in rainfall seen across the Southern Alps. More than double normal August rainfall seen in the north and east of the South Island. In contrast, it was extremely dry over the west and south, with low rainfall records broken in Southland. For the north and east of the North Island, it was also a rather wet August, but totals were close to normal in the western North Island.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine</td>
<td>Extremely sunny over southwest New Zealand, and rather sunny between Auckland and Taumarunui. In contrast, very cloudy in the north and east of the South Island, and from Taranaki to Wellington.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil moisture</td>
<td>At the end of August, below normal soil moisture levels for the southwest South Island. Above normal levels for the Kaikoura Coast and south Canterbury.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hold mouse over links and press ctrl + left click to jump to the information you require:

- Overview
- Rainfall
- Temperature
- Sunshine
- August climate in the six main centres
- Highlights and extreme events

Overview

August 2012 was dominated by more northeast winds than normal over New Zealand, squeezed between higher than normal pressures southeast of the country, and lower pressures than usual over the mid Tasman Sea.

The frequent northeast winds during the month produced an unusually mild August. Well above average temperatures were observed in Nelson/Marlborough, along the West Coast of the South Island, in Southland and in Central Otago, around Christchurch, Timaru, and Oamaru, in parts of Hawkes Bay, in the Firth of Thames, and between Ohakune to Palmerston North. It was the warmest August on record for Leigh, Ohakune, Westport, Haast, Milford Sound, Nelson, and Secretary Island. Elsewhere, temperatures were typically above average, too. The nation-wide
average temperature in August 2012 was 9.9°C (1.2°C above the 1971-2000 August average), using NIWA’s seven-station temperature series which begins in 1909.

The northeasterly winds also produced a very large contrast in rainfall across the Southern Alps. It was an extremely wet August (with more than 200 percent of August normal rainfall recorded) in the north and east of the South Island, namely Nelson, Marlborough, Canterbury and north Otago. Some areas received treble (300 percent of) August normal rainfall, such as in Timaru, which recorded its third wettest August since 1881. In contrast, it was very dry over the west and south of the South Island (with less than 50 percent of August normal rainfall south of Westport), showing the effects of prevailing northeasterly winds. Record low or near-record low August rainfall was seen across Southland.

For the north and east of the North Island, it was a rather wet August. Above normal rainfall was experienced in Northland, Auckland, Coromandel, Gisborne, and parts of the Bay of Plenty, Hawkes Bay and the Wairarapa. Elsewhere in the North Island (and for the Buller region of the South Island), near normal rainfall was generally recorded.

It was a very sunny August for the south and west of the South Island, reflecting the high frequency of northeasterly winds during the month. It was the sunniest August on record for Queenstown, and the second-sunniest August on record for Balclutha. It was also a sunnier than usual August for the western North Island between Auckland and Taumarunui. In contrast, it was a rather dull August between Taranaki and Wellington, for Nelson and Marlborough, and the eastern South Island. It was the cloudiest August on record at Takaka. Elsewhere, sunshine totals were generally near normal.

Further Highlights:

- The highest temperature was 22.7°C, observed at Christchurch on 26 August.
- The lowest temperature was -5.3°C, recorded at Ranfurly on 23 August.
- The highest 1-day rainfall experienced was 198 mm at Akaroa on 12 August.
- The highest gust recorded was 135 km/hr at Puysegur Point, Fiordland, on 25 August.
- Of the six main centres in August 2012, Auckland was the warmest and sunniest, Tauranga the wettest, Christchurch was the driest, and Dunedin the coolest and cloudiest.

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Tel. 04 386 0328
Temperature: An unusually mild August

The frequent northeast winds during the month produced an unusually mild August. Well above average temperatures (more than 1.2°C above the August average) were observed in Nelson/Marlborough, along the West Coast of the South Island, in Southland and in Central Otago, around Christchurch, Timaru, and Oamaru, in parts of Hawkes Bay, in the Firth of Thames, and between Ohakune to Palmerston North. Elsewhere, temperatures were typically above average (ranging between 0.5°C and 1.2°C above the August average). It was the warmest August on record for Leigh, Ohakune, Westport, Haast, Milford Sound, Nelson, and Secretary Island. The nation-wide average temperature in August 2012 was 9.9°C (1.2°C above the 1971-2000 August average), using NIWA’s seven-station temperature series which begins in 1909.

Record\(^2\) or near-record mean air temperatures for August were recorded at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Mean air temp. (°C)</th>
<th>Departure from normal(^1) (°C)</th>
<th>Year records began</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Record high or near-record high</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerikeri</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>4th-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaikohe</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>3rd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leigh</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whangaparaoa</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>3rd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paeroa</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1947</td>
<td>4th-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Te Puke</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>4th-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auckland (Airport)</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1959</td>
<td>4th-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pukekohe</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1969</td>
<td>3rd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Taharoa</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>4th-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wairoa</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>4th-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmerston North</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>2nd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stratford</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>3rd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohakune</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Takaka</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1978</td>
<td>2nd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farewell Spit</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>2nd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westport</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hokitika</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1963</td>
<td>2nd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reefton</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>3rd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haast</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milford Sound</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1934</td>
<td>Highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary Island</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Highest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{1}\) Interim monthly value  
\(^{2}\) The rankings (1\(^{st}\), 2\(^{nd}\), 3\(^{rd}\), etc) in all Tables in this summary are relative to climate data from a group of nearby stations, some of which may no longer be operating. The current climate value is compared against all values from any member of the group, without any regard for homogeneity between one station’s record, and another. This approach is used due to the practical limitations of performing homogeneity checks in real-time.

\(^{3}\) This climate summary uses the updated ‘normal’ period, 1981-2010. (A ‘normal’ period is a 30 year window of time from which the normal (average) and percentage of normal are calculated from).
Rainfall: A large contrast seen over the South Island - extremely wet in the north and east but very dry in the west and south. Wetter than usual for many coastal areas in the north and east of the North Island.

The northeasterly winds also produced a very large contrast in rainfalls across the Southern Alps. It was an extremely wet August (with more than 200 percent of August normal rainfall recorded) in the north and east of the South Island, namely Nelson, Marlborough, Canterbury and north Otago. Some areas received treble (300 percent of) August normal rainfall, such as in Timaru, which recorded its third wettest August since 1881. In contrast, it was very dry over the west and south of the South Island (with less than 50 percent of August normal rainfall south of Westport), showing the effects of prevailing northeasterly winds. Record low or near-record low August rainfall was seen across Southland.

It was a rather wet August in the north and east of the North Island. Above normal rainfall (with totals between 120 and 149 percent of August normal) was experienced in Northland, Auckland, Coromandel, Gisborne, and parts of the Bay of Plenty, Hawkes Bay and the Wairarapa. Elsewhere in the North Island (and for the Buller region of the South Island), near normal rainfall was recorded.

Record or near-record August rainfall totals were recorded at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Rainfall total (mm)</th>
<th>Percentage of normal</th>
<th>Year records began</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Record high or near-record high</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orari Estate</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>1897</td>
<td>4th-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timaru</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>1881</td>
<td>3rd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Record low or near-record low</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary Island</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Lowest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manapouri</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>3rd-lowest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumsden</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Lowest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandra</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>2nd-lowest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gore</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>4th-lowest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invercargill</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1939</td>
<td>4th-lowest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiwai Point</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>3rd-lowest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At the end of August, soils were much drier than normal in the southwest South Island, but were wetter than usual in parts of coastal south Canterbury and on the Kaikoura Coast. Elsewhere, soil moisture levels were generally near normal for the time of year.

**Sunshine: A very sunny August for the south and west of the South Island. Rather sunny for the western North Island between Auckland and Taumarunui, too. Unusually cloudy for Taranaki to Wellington, Nelson and the eastern South Island.**

It was a very sunny August for the south and west of the South Island (with sunshine totals typically ranging between 110 and 140 percent of August normal), reflecting the high frequency of northeasterly winds during the month. It was the sunniest August on record for Queenstown, and the second-sunniest August on record for Balclutha. It was also a sunnier than usual August for the western North Island between Auckland and Taumarunui (with sunshine totals between 110 and 124 percent of August normal).

In contrast, it was a rather dull August between Taranaki and Wellington, for Nelson and Marlborough, and the eastern South Island (with August sunshine totals typically around 80 percent of August normal in these regions). It was the cloudiest August on record at Takaka. Elsewhere, sunshine totals were generally near normal (between 90 and 110 percent of August normal).

**Record or near-record August sunshine hours were recorded at:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Sunshine hours</th>
<th>Percentage of normal</th>
<th>Year records began</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Record high or near-record high</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queenstown</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balclutha</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>2nd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Record low or near-record low</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martinborough</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>3rd-lowest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Takaka</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Lowest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## August climate in the six main centres

All of the six main centres experienced an unusually mild August, and for all of the main centres except Auckland, it was an extremely wet August, too – consistent with the high frequency of northeasterly winds across New Zealand during the month.

Of the six main centres, Auckland was the warmest and sunniest, Tauranga the wettest, Christchurch was the driest, and Dunedin the coolest and cloudiest.

### August 2012 main centre climate statistics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Mean temp. ($^\circ$C)</th>
<th>Departure from normal ($^\circ$C)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auckland$^a$</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>+0.7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tauranga$^b$</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>+0.9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton$^c$</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>+0.8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellington$^d$</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>+1.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christchurch$^e$</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>+1.6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Well above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunedin$^f$</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>+0.7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Above average</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rainfall</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Rainfall (mm)</th>
<th>% of normal</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auckland$^a$</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>109%</td>
<td>Near normal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tauranga$^b$</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>134%</td>
<td>Above normal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton$^c$</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>123%</td>
<td>Above normal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellington$^d$</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>120%</td>
<td>Above normal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christchurch$^e$</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>150%</td>
<td>Well above normal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunedin$^f$</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>185%</td>
<td>Well above normal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunshine</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Sunshine (hours)</th>
<th>% of normal</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auckland$^a$</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>118%</td>
<td>Above normal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tauranga$^b$</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>Near normal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton$^c$</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>105%</td>
<td>Near normal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellington$^d$</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>Below normal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christchurch$^e$</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>Below normal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunedin$^f$</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>Below normal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$^a$ Mangere  $^b$ Tauranga Airport  $^c$ Hamilton Airport  $^d$ Kelburn  $^e$ Christchurch Airport  $^f$ Musselburgh  $^g$ Ruakura
Highlights and extreme events

Rain and slips

The highest 1-day rainfall experienced in August was 198 mm, recorded at Akaroa on 12 August.

On 1 August, surface flooding affected SH1 between Clarence and Kaikoura. In Blenheim, the Opawa River burst its banks, and two young people had to be rescued when their car became stranded in the floodwaters. Many roads in Marlborough were closed by flooding and slips, including Queen Charlotte Drive, and the Awatere Valley Road. Flooding closed SH3 between Fairlie and Lake Tekapo, and surface flooding also affected SH79 between Geraldine and Fairlie, and SH83 between Duntroon and Kurow. Further north in the Wairarapa, roads and paddocks were flooded.

On 2 August, heavy rain and flooding closed many roads and bridges in South Canterbury. Further north, there was extensive surface flooding in the Gisborne region, with soils waterlogged, and all sports grounds closed.

On 3 August, residents in the Clarence area were isolated after heavy rains made the fords on George River impassable. Flooding also affected properties on Inland Road, west of Kaikoura.

On 4 August, several minor roads in the Gisborne region were closed by fallen trees, or slips, slumping, and washouts, caused by heavy rain.

On 8 August, heavy rain caused surface flooding on SH1 between Blenheim and Kaikoura, Kaikoura and Waipara, and Pareora and Glenavy, and on SH63 between Renwick and Wairau Village. Many other minor roads in Marlborough were affected by flooding and slips, with several closed completely. In Blenheim, the heavy rain and surface flooding caused raw sewage to overflow the sewer network. Surface flooding affected SH83 from Kurow to Pukeuri. In Timaru sports fields were closed. Many rural roads in north Otago were closed by flooding.

On 9 August, just after midnight, SH1 was closed by a large slip near Ward, and flooding at Seddon, between Blenheim and Kaikoura. Surface flooding also affected SH1 between Waitaki and Oamaru, and SH83 at Blackpoint and Otekaieke. Many minor roads in Marlborough remained closed by flooding and slips, and most Blenheim sports grounds were closed. Some schools sent rural pupils home early. Surface flooding and slips also affected commuter roads in Wellington, with Makara Beach cut off.

On 10 August, many roads in Marlborough, including SH6 and SH63, remained closed by flooding and slips.

On 12 August, flooding closed SH70 between Fairlie and Geraldine, and further north, a slip closed one lane of SH29 over the Kaimai Ranges. The heavy rain caused a lahar from Tongariro's northern slopes, closing a section of SH46 near Lake Rotoaira. Flooding closed SH2 both north and south of
Katikati. Flooding also occurred in Rotorua, particularly in the Ngongotaha area, and in the Wairarapa.

On 13 August, flooding affected SH83 between Pukeuri and Duntroon, SH1 from Christchurch to Rakaia, and SH75 from Christchurch to Akaroa. There was widespread surface flooding in Christchurch, particularly in eastern suburbs, with many roads closed. The Ashley River bridge was closed by flooding, and the Heathcote River, Dudley Creek, and streams at Akaroa and Duvauchelle burst their banks. In Lyttelton, the heavy rain caused a retaining wall to collapse, blocking stormwater drains and creating a flash flood which damaged property. A slip isolated Okains Bay, and slips on The Summit Road trapped some motorists. In Temuka, Opihi College delayed the start of the school day because of the conditions. Many minor roads in Dunedin were closed by flooding. In Northland, a slip closed one lane of SH10 near Matauri Bay.

On 14 August, SH75 was closed by a slip between Birdlings Flat and Barrys Bay. Flooding affected SH1 between Oamaru and Palmerston, SH85 between Palmerston and Dunback, and SH88 between Dunedin and Port Chalmers. A large slip closed Portobello Road, and many minor roads in Otago were closed by flooding. A mud slide forced the evacuation of properties in Lyttelton, and one cottage was inundated with mud up to a metre deep. Further north in Tauranga, two landslides occurred in the suburb of Matua, about 10-15 m away from houses.

On 15 August, after heavy rain overnight, many more roads in Otago were closed by flooding and slips, isolating rural properties. SH1 was flooded between Oamaru and Waitaki Bridge. School bus services were cancelled in North Otago. All rural roads in Waitaki were effectively off-limits to motorists, after the Waitaki District Council issued a no non-essential travel notice. In South Canterbury, slips with the consistency of soupy mud, closed some rural roads.

On 16 August, many roads in Otago remained closed by slips and flooding.

On 20 August, surface flooding affected SH1 from Oamaru to Pukeuri, SH83 between Duntroon and Pukeuri, and SH88 at St Leonards. In Palmerston North all sports grounds were closed after heavy rain. In Dunedin, Portobello Road was closed by a slip. In Taranaki, a large slip at Oakura covered the road and buried a set of public toilets. This was one of eight slips on the coastal road around Mt Taranaki.

On 21 August, two slips occurred in Hamilton due to persistent rain.

On 25 August, heavy rain, high winds, and snow prevented the search for a man who had failed to return from a climb in Aoraki Mt Cook National Park the day before. He was found safe in a shelter on the afternoon of 26 August. In Queenstown, heavy rain cancelled a freestyle motocross demonstration at the 2012 Remarkables Parklife Invitational rail jam.

There were no record high or near-record high 24-hour rainfalls in August.
Temperatures

The highest temperature in August was 22.7°C, observed in Christchurch on 26 August. The lowest temperature was -5.3°C, recorded at Ranfurly on 23 August.

Notably, temperatures during a warm northwest event between 25-27 August were extremely high for the time of year at a number of locations around Wellington, and the north and east of the South Island.

Record or near-record daily maximum air temperatures for August were recorded at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Extreme maximum (°C)</th>
<th>Date of extreme temperature</th>
<th>Year records began</th>
<th>Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leigh</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>18th</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Equal highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auckland</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>1959</td>
<td>2nd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Taharoa</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>31st</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>4th-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westport</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Equal 4th-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary Island</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>3rd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motueka</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td>3rd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appleby</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>30th</td>
<td>1943</td>
<td>2nd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranfurly</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>31st</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>3rd-highest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Record or near-record daily minimum air temperatures for August were recorded at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Extreme minimum (°C)</th>
<th>Date of extreme temperature</th>
<th>Year records began</th>
<th>Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Martinborough</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>3rd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngawi</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>4th-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Takaka</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farewell Spit</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Equal 2nd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westport</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>3rd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reefton</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Equal 2nd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milford Sound</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>1935</td>
<td>Equal 4th-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary Island</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Equal 2nd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puysegur Point</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>25th</td>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>1943</td>
<td>Highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blenheim</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Equal 4th-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaikoura</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>2nd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waipara West</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>26th</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Equal 3rd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le Bons Bay</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>26th</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>2nd-highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West Cape</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>25th</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Highest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Wind**

The highest gust recorded in August was 135 km/hr, observed at Puysegur Point, Fiordland, on 25 August. There were no August wind gust records set during the month.

On 12 August, a tornado ripped out trees and deposited them on SH10 near Taipa, northeast of Kaitaia, closing the road. Property and crops were damaged, and a dinghy's flight was stopped only when its anchor was caught in a tree. A power pole and lines near Lake Ohia were brought down, cutting off power to about 1200 properties.

On 20 August, a tornado was reported in Bell Block, New Plymouth.

On 22 August, a fallen tree blocked SH 25 north of Whangamata, Coromandel.

**Lightning and hail**

On 13 August a hail storm struck Palmerston North, accompanied by heavy rain which caused surface flooding.

On 18 August, a band of thunderstorms moved across Northland, Auckland, Waikato and parts of Coromandel Peninsula.

On 20 August, it was Wellington’s turn for thunder and lightning, particularly the southern and eastern suburbs. Marble-sized hailstones covered the Miramar Peninsula, as the storm passed from the airport to Eastbourne, leaving surface flooding in its wake.

**Snow and ice**

On 8 August, snow fell on SH8 between Fairlie and Lake Tekapo, closing it to towing vehicles, with chains required on all other vehicles.

On 12 August, snow fell on SH8 at Burkes Pass, and in Lake Tekapo Village. Several drivers became stuck in the snow and had to be rescued. South Island ski fields received significant snow falls.

On 14 August, snow closed the access road to Mt Cheeseman ski-field, trapping about 40 people on the mountain overnight.

On 27 August, snow required chains to be carried on all vehicles on SH 94 from Lower Hollyford to Milford Sound.
Cloud and fog

On both 6 and 7 August, fog disrupted flights into and out of Invercargill Airport.

From 16 to 19 August, fog caused cancellations and delays to flights into and out of Dunedin Airport every day, and on the 19th the fog prevented a container ship entering Dunedin Harbour.

For further information, please contact:

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Tel. 04 386 0328

August 2012 rainfall, expressed as an anomaly from normal August conditions (percent of August normal rainfall). The dark blue colour indicates August rainfall exceeding double (200 percent) of the August normal, such as in the north and east of the South Island. In contrast, a medium orange colour indicates rainfall less than 40 percent of August normal (for example, in the southwest of the country).